

January 12, 1976

SENATOR FOWLER: If you can look at the cover letter from the City of Lincoln, I should stress that this bill deals only with the City of Lincoln. Both the Mayor and City Council have agreed to this bill to provide a minimum benefit for already retired firemen from the City of Lincoln. The minimum benefit would be \$200 a month. Right now we have firemen that are retired from our city who are receiving pensions of \$70, \$80 and \$90. These people are in their 80's and 90's. They did not receive Social Security because they were not on the Social Security program when they were city firemen. I would stress again that this bill deals only with the City of Lincoln, that it has been agreed to by the Mayor and the Council. There is no cost of living index in it. It simply establishes this minimum floor of \$200.

I'd move the adoption of these amendments.

PRESIDENT: Is there discussion? Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Fowler to explain how this is to be financed. Perhaps it's in the amendment, I don't know. I think we ought to know who's paying for it and how it will be carried on.

SENATOR FOWLER: In Section 3 of the bill it provides that the City of Lincoln shall provide the funding for this, so there are no state dollars involved. That's why I keep stressing that it has been agreed by the city. They are the ones that are going to absorb the tab. They find the bill completely agreeable to them.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Is the City of Lincoln having a problem that others are of being up against a mill levy limit from which to raise funds?

SENATOR FOWLER: The city does not feel that this is going to be any sort of major obligation that will force it into any situation like that.

SENATOR DICKINSON: What do firemen receive You mentioned the very old ones who have been retired a long time. What would a fireman receive who was retiring today for instance, under the present structure?

SENATOR FOWLER: I believe that there are firemen who are retiring at \$400 or \$500. What this would do is create a minimum of \$200. It deals only with firemen who are like in their 80's and 90's and retired say in 1955 or before. That's all the bill deals with.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? Is there anything to reply to, Senator Fowler? The question is the adoption of the amendment offered by Senator Fowler. Record your vote. Record.